

Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative
CO₂ Budget Trading Program

**Massachusetts
Department of Environmental Protection**

Massachusetts CO₂ Budget Trading Program

Offset Project Consistency Application

U.S. Forest Projects – Reforestation

Version 1.0

Issued by

Issued on

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1. Overview

To demonstrate that a U.S. Forest offset project qualifies for the award of carbon dioxide (CO₂) offset allowances, a Project Sponsor must submit to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) in accordance with these instructions a fully completed *Massachusetts Offset Project Consistency Application – U.S. Forest Project* (“*Consistency Application*”), including the coversheet and all forms and related attachments. An incomplete *Consistency Application* will not be reviewed to determine consistency. Following these instructions will ensure that the *Consistency Application* contains all necessary information and is submitted properly.

Each Project Sponsor should review the Massachusetts CO₂ Budget Trading Program regulations, 310 CMR 7.70(10), for information regarding offset projects located in Massachusetts and the award of CO₂ offset allowances. All Massachusetts offset application materials and other documents are available at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/climate-energy/climate/approvals/carbon-dioxide-co2-budget-trading-program-offsets.html>.

Before the *Consistency Application* can be completed, the Project Sponsor must establish a general account and obtain an offset project ID code through the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) CO₂ Allowance Tracking System (COATS). The Project Sponsor identified in the *Consistency Application* must be the same as the Authorized Account Representative for the RGGI COATS general account identified in the *Massachusetts Consistency Application*. For information about establishing a RGGI COATS general account and offset project ID code, consult the RGGI COATS User’s Guide, available at <http://www.rggi-coats.org>.

Key eligibility dates and application submittal requirements for offset projects are as follows:

- U.S. Forest Projects may be applied for in a RGGI participating state (excluding NY and CT) or anywhere in the United States if Project State has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with RGGI states.
- The *Consistency Application* must be submitted within one (1) year after the project is commenced.

2. Submission Instructions

The Project Sponsor should submit the completed *Consistency Application*, and all attachments, via RGGI COATS at <http://www.rggi-coats.org> as described above. For information about submitting a *Consistency Application* via RGGI COATS, consult the RGGI COATS User's Guide, available at <http://www.rggi-coats.org>.

The *Consistency Application* has three (3) parts, as described below. Each part comprises specified forms and required documentation. The *Consistency Application* has been created as a Microsoft Word document with editable fields. Enter information directly into the fields provided or submit information or documentation as an attachment, as directed. Include headers on all attachments indicating the form to which each is attached, the offset project name, and offset project ID code. If attachments are being submitted as separate electronic documents, please include the form numbers in the file names of the documents.

When submitting documents electronically via RGGI COATS, it is not necessary to submit a scanned or paper hardcopy of the application forms. The Project Sponsor must retain the completed original copy of the *Consistency Application* and attachments with the original signed documents. MassDEP reserves the right to request the original signed application documents at any time.

A completed hardcopy and/or CD of the *Consistency Application* may also be mailed to: Climate Strategies Group, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Air and Waste, 6th Floor, One Winter Street, Boston, MA 02108-4747.

Questions about this form and how to submit it should be directed to climate.strategies@state.ma.us or 617-574-6815.

3. Consistency Application Forms

The *Consistency Application* includes eleven (11) forms divided into three (3) parts, as follows.

Part 1. General Information Forms

- Form 1.1 – Coversheet
- Form 1.2 – General Information
- Form 1.3 – Attestations
- Form 1.4 – Project Sponsor Agreement
- Form 1.5 – Disclosure of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Data Reporting

Part 2. Category-Specific Information and Documentation Forms

- Form 2.1 – Project Description
- Form 2.2 – Demonstration of Eligibility
- Form 2.3 – Baseline Modeling
- Form 2.4 – Monitoring and Verification Plan
- Form 2.5 – Reversal Risk Rating

Part 3. Independent Verification Form

- Form 3.1 – Independent Verifier Certification Statement and Report

The following instructions address each of the forms in numerical order. Note that the forms themselves include many embedded instructions.

Part 1. General Information Forms

The five (5) forms in Part 1 of the *Consistency Application* address general requirements applicable to U.S. Forest – Reforestation offset projects. Instructions for the Part 1 forms are provided below.

Form 1.1 Coversheet

Enter the requested information in the editable text fields in the form.

Check the boxes to indicate which forms are being submitted. For information about entering the Project Sponsor, offset project name and offset project ID code, and RGGI COATS account name and number, see instructions below for Form 1.2, General Information.

Submit all required forms including the Coversheet. If a required form is not submitted, the *Consistency Application* will not be considered complete for commencement of review by MassDEP.

Form 1.2 General Information

Enter the requested information in the editable text fields in the form. If a text field is not applicable or is unanswerable, enter “NA.” Note the following:

Offset Project ID Code: Enter the offset project ID code. The offset project ID code is the alphanumeric code generated when the Project Sponsor creates a record of the offset project in the RGGI CO₂ Allowance Tracking System (RGGI COATS). See the RGGI COATS User’s Guide for more information about creating an offset project record in RGGI COATS, available at <http://www.rggi-coats.org>.

Project Information: Enter project information. The name of the offset project should be the same name entered by the Project Sponsor when creating a project record in RGGI COATS. The project location entered should be the primary location of the project if the project consists of actions at multiple locations. The summary narrative of the project should indicate all locations where project actions occur or will occur.

Project Sponsor: Identify the Project Sponsor and provide his or her contact information. The Project Sponsor is the natural person who is the Authorized Account Representative for the RGGI COATS general account identified in the *Consistency Application*. The Project Sponsor must be a Forest Owner as defined in Section 2.2 of the RGGI U.S. Forest Protocol.

Project Sponsor Organization: Provide the full legal name of the organization the Project Sponsor represents, including any alternative names under which the organization also may be doing business (e.g., John Doe Enterprises, Inc., d/b/a

JDE). If the Project Sponsor is representing himself or herself as an individual, enter “NA”.

RGGI COATS General Account Name and Number: Enter the RGGI COATS general account name and number. The RGGI COATS general account identified in the *Consistency Application* is the RGGI COATS account into which any awarded CO₂ offset allowances related to the offset project will be transferred.

Form 1.3 Attestations

Sign and date the form. Submit the originally signed form as part of the paper hardcopy *Consistency Application*. Scan the signed and dated form for submission as part of the electronic version of the *Consistency Application*.

Form 1.4 Project Sponsor Agreement

Sign and date the form. Submit the originally signed form as part of the paper hardcopy *Consistency Application*. Scan the signed and dated form for submission as part of the electronic version of the *Consistency Application*.

Form 1.5 Disclosure of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Data Reporting

Check the appropriate box in the form to indicate whether greenhouse gas emissions data related to the offset project have been or will be reported to any voluntary or mandatory programs, other than the CO₂ Budget Trading Program. For each program for which data have been or will be reported, provide the program name, the program type (voluntary or mandatory), program contact information (website or street address), the categories of emissions data reported, the frequency of reporting, when the reporting began or will begin, and reporting status (prior, current, future). The Project Sponsor must disclose future reporting related to current commitments made to voluntary programs as well as future reporting mandated by current statutes, regulations, or judicial or administrative orders.

Offset Project Name

Offset Project ID Code

Form 1.1 – Coversheet

Project Sponsor (RGGI COATS Authorized Account Representative)

Project Sponsor Organization

RGGI COATS General Account Name

RGGI COATS General Account Number

Each of the following forms (except Form 2.5, which is optional) must be submitted. Check the boxes below to indicate that the submitted *Consistency Application* includes each of the required forms:

- ☐ Form 1.2 – General Information
- ☐ Form 1.3 – Attestations
- ☐ Form 1.4 – Project Sponsor Agreement
- ☐ Form 1.5 – Disclosure of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Data Reporting
- ☐ Form 2.1 – Project Description
- ☐ Form 2.2 – Demonstration of Eligibility
- ☐ Form 2.3 – Baseline Modeling
- ☐ Form 2.4 – Monitoring and Verification Plan
- ☐ Form 2.5 – Reversal Risk Rating
- ☐ Form 3.1 – Independent Verifier Certification Statement and Report

Offset Project Name

Offset Project ID Code

Form 1.2 – General Information

Project Sponsor (RGGI COATS Authorized Account Representative)

Telephone Number

Fax Number

Email Address

Street Address

City

State/Province

Postal Code

Country

RGGI COATS General Account Name

RGGI COATS General Account Number

Name of Offset Project

Application Date

Summary Description of Offset Project

Project City

Project County

Project State

Project Commencement Date

Project Sponsor Organization

Primary Street Address

City

State/Province

Postal Code

Country

Brief Description of Project Sponsor Organization

Telephone Number

Website URL

Independent Verifier (Company/Organization)

States Where Verifier Accredited

Primary Street Address

Website URL

City

State/Province

Postal Code

Country

Point of Contact for Project

Contact Telephone Number	Contact Fax Number	Contact Email Address	
Contact Street Address			
City	State/Province	Postal Code	Country

Offset Project Name

Offset Project ID Code

Form 1.3 – Attestations

The undersigned Project Sponsor certifies the truth of the following statements:

1. The offset project referenced in this *Consistency Application* is not required pursuant to any local, state, or federal law, regulation, or administrative or judicial order.
2. The offset project referenced in this *Consistency Application* has not and will not be awarded credits or allowances under any other greenhouse gas program.
3. The offset project referenced in this *Consistency Application* has not and will not receive any funding or other incentives from any system benefit fund or funds or other incentives provided through the auction of CO₂ allowances from the Massachusetts Auction Account.
4. A *Consistency Application* for the offset project or any portion of the offset project referenced in this *Consistency Application* has not been filed in any other participating state.
5. All offset projects for which the Project Sponsor or project sponsor organization has received CO₂ offset allowances, if any, under the Project Sponsor's or project sponsor organization's ownership or control (or under the ownership or control of any entity which controls, is controlled by, or has common control with the Project Sponsor or project sponsor organization) are in compliance with all applicable requirements of the CO₂ Budget Trading Program in all participating states.
6. I am authorized to make this submission on behalf of the project sponsor organization. I certify under penalty of law that I have personally examined, and am familiar with, the statements and information submitted in this *Consistency Application* and all its attachments. Based on my inquiry of those individuals with primary responsibility for obtaining the information, I certify that the statements and information are to the best of my knowledge and belief true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false statements and information or omitting required statements and information, including the possibility of fine or imprisonment.

Project Sponsor Signature

Date

Printed Name

Title

Organization

Notary

Offset Project Name

Offset Project ID Code

Form 1.4 – Project Sponsor Agreement

The undersigned Project Sponsor recognizes and accepts that the application for, and the receipt of, CO₂ offset allowances under the CO₂ Budget Trading Program is predicated on the Project Sponsor following all the requirements of 310 CMR 7.70. The undersigned Project Sponsor holds the legal rights to the offset project, or has been granted the right to act on behalf of a party that holds the legal rights to the offset project. The Project Sponsor understands that eligibility for the award of CO₂ offset allowances under 310 CMR 7.70(10) is contingent on meeting the requirements of 310 CMR 7.70(10). The Project Sponsor authorizes MassDEP or its agent to audit this offset project for purposes of verifying that the offset project, including the Monitoring and Verification Plan, has been implemented as described in this application. The Project Sponsor understands that this right to audit shall include the right to enter the physical location of the offset project. The Project Sponsor submits to the legal jurisdiction of Massachusetts.

Project Sponsor Signature

Date

Printed Name

Title

Organization

Notary

Offset Project Name

Offset Project ID Code

Form 1.5 – Disclosure of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Data Reporting

Check the box below that applies:

- ☐ No greenhouse gas emissions data related to the offset project referenced in this *Consistency Application* have been or will be reported to a voluntary or mandatory program other than the Massachusetts CO₂ Budget Trading Program.
- ☐ Greenhouse gas emissions data related to the offset project referenced in this *Consistency Application* have been or will be reported to a voluntary or mandatory program other than the Massachusetts CO₂ Budget Trading Program. Information for all such programs to which greenhouse gas emissions data have been or will be reported is provided below.

Name of Program to which GHG Emissions Data Reported

Check all that apply:

- ☐ Reporting is currently ongoing
- ☐ Reporting was conducted in the past
- ☐ Reporting will be conducted in the future
- ☐ Reporting is mandatory
- ☐ Reporting is voluntary

Enter Frequency of Reporting

Enter Reporting Start Date

Program Contact Information – Address

Program Website

Categories of Emissions Data Reported

Name of Program to which GHG Emissions Data Reported

Check all that apply:

- ☐ Reporting is currently ongoing
- ☐ Reporting was conducted in the past
- ☐ Reporting will be conducted in the future
- ☐ Reporting is mandatory
- ☐ Reporting is voluntary

Enter Frequency of Reporting

Enter Reporting Start Date

Program Contact Information – Address

Program Website

Categories of Emissions Data Reported

Add extra pages as needed. Each attachment must include a header that indicates it is an attachment to Form 1.5, identifies the number of the appropriate table and the reference number in the left-hand column of the table, and includes the offset project name and offset project ID code. If attachments are being submitted as separate electronic documents, please include the form numbers in the file names of the documents.

Part 2. Category-Specific Information and Documentation Forms

The five (5) forms in Part 2 of the Consistency Application address category-specific requirements and documentation for U.S. Forest offset projects. Instructions for the Part 2 forms are provided below.

Form 2.1 Project Description

Attach a detailed narrative of the actions to be taken as part of the offset project. The attached narrative must include a header that indicates it is an attachment to Form 2.1 and includes the offset project name and offset project ID code. If attachments are being submitted as separate electronic documents, please include the form numbers in the file names of the documents.

Check the boxes in Form 2.1 to indicate that the narrative includes the required components. The narrative must include the following information:

1. **Land Owners.** Identify the owner(s) of the land within the offset project boundary. Attach a copy of the deed or title filed with the state or local registrar of deeds. State whether the landowner(s) leased subsurface or surface rights to other parties. Provide a table that includes each owner's name, status (individual, corporation, LLC, partnership, LLP, trust, foundation, cooperative, government entity), ownership share, and expected role (Project Sponsor must be identified), if any, in the management of the offset project. The table should be formatted in a manner consistent with the example below and include a row for each distinct land owner:

Names on Fee Title	Status	Percent Ownership	Role in Offset Project

2. **Project Area.** Identify whether the offset project will take place on private or public lands. Confirm whether the project is located on land that is either owned by, or subject to an ownership or possessory interest of a Tribe, "Indian lands" of a Tribe, as defined by 25 U.S.C. §81(a)(1), or owned by any person, entity, or Tribe, within the external borders of such Indian lands. If the project is located on land that meets any of these criteria, the project must obtain a waiver of sovereign immunity between the tribe and the Participating State. Provide the longitude and latitude of the project, as well as total project area acreage.

3. **Conservation Easement.** Attach a copy of any conservation easements or other legal encumbrances (either an executed copy or a copy of the to-be-executed easement) encumbering the project boundary.

4. **Identify the Assessment Area(s).** Provide a table that lists each of the Supersections and Assessment Areas associated with the Project Area. The table should include a row for each Assessment Area and be formatted in a manner consistent with the example below:

Supersection

Assessment Area

Acreage

Form 2.2 Demonstration of Eligibility

Attach documentation to Form 2.2 to demonstrate offset project eligibility. Each attachment must include a header that indicates it is an attachment to Form 2.2 and includes the offset project name and offset project ID code. If attachments are being submitted as separate electronic documents, please include the form numbers in the file names of the documents.

The following documentation must be provided:

1. Reforestation Land Eligibility. Select which scenario the Project Area land fits under to demonstrate eligibility as a reforestation project, and explain how the land meets either scenario:

- Less than 10 percent tree canopy cover for a minimum of 10 years
- Subject to a Significant Disturbance that has removed at least 20 percent of the land's above-ground live biomass

2. Reforestation Project Eligibility. Indicate the appropriate "Scenario Number" from Appendix E of the RGGI U.S. Forest Protocol that accurately reflects the Project conditions.

3. Project Commencement. Identify the Project Commencement Date, as well as the action being used to demonstrate the offset project commencement date per Section 3.2 of the RGGI U.S. Forest Protocol.

4. Demonstration of Natural Forest Management. Describe how the project will meet the definition of Natural Forest Management according to Table 3.2 of the RGGI U.S. Forest Protocol. In order to meet the definition of Natural Forest Management, describe how the project will meet each of the following requirements:

- Native Species: Describe what percentage of the standing live carbon pool will be comprised of native species. The project must consist of at least 95% native species, or must demonstrate that management practices will lead to this goal being met over the project life. Reforestation projects are initially assessed using estimates of stems per acre.
- Species Diversity: Describe the percentage each distinct tree species comprises of total basal area. No single species may exceed the maximum percentage shown in the Assessment Area Data File under the "Species Diversity Index" column. If any single species exceeds this percentage, describe how the project will demonstrate a trend towards achieving the Species Diversity Index within the project life.
- Sustainable Management: Indicate which of the following options the project will use to meet the sustainable management requirement, as applied to all forest landholdings owned or controlled by the Forest Owner.

- No commercial harvesting is taking place within the Project Area.
 - Third party certification of sustainable management via Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), or Tree Farm System.
 - Adherence to a renewable long-term management plan demonstrating sustainable harvest levels sanctioned and monitored by a state or federal agency.
 - Employment of uneven-aged silvicultural practices and canopy cover retention averaging at least 40% across forest landholdings, as measured on any 20 acres within the entire forestland owned or controlled by the Forest Owner.
- **Structural Elements**: Describe how the project will ensure that standing and lying dead wood is retained according to the requirements of Table 3.2 of the RGGI U.S. Forest Protocol for the duration of the project life.
 - **Legal Requirement**: Indicate whether the project is being implemented as result of any law, statute, regulation, court order, or other legally binding mandate. If so, explain.
 - **Broadcast Fertilization**: Indicate whether the project will employ broadcast fertilization.

Form 2.3 **Baseline Modeling**

Provide documentation of the sequestration baseline where indicated in Form 2.3 or as an attachment to Form 2.3, as directed below. Each attachment must include a header that indicates it is an attachment to Form 2.3 and includes the offset project name and offset project ID code. Multiple attachments may be integrated into a single document, as appropriate, as long as each element is clearly identified, as specified below. For submission of the electronic version of the *Consistency Application*, spreadsheets must be provided as a distinct electronic file or files (distinct spreadsheets may be incorporated into a single spreadsheet file, as appropriate, as long as each element is clearly identified, as specified below). If attachments are being submitted as separate electronic documents, please include the form numbers in the file names of the documents. Check the boxes in Form 2.3 to indicate that required documentation is attached and includes the required components.

The following documentation must be provided:

1. **Modeling Plan**. Describe the project's modeling plan according to Appendix B, Section B. 3 of the RGGI U.S. Forest Protocol. Indicate which approved growth model will be used for the project. For Reforestation Projects, this may be deferred until the second required verification.
2. **Qualitative Description**. Provide a qualitative characterization of the Project baseline conditions. In this description, provide a description of the likely natural vegetation conditions or regeneration activities that would have occurred in the absence of the project, taking into consideration all legal mandates that would promote reforestation on the Project Area.

Form 2.4 Monitoring and Verification Plan

Provide the Monitoring and Verification Plan (M&V Plan) as multiple attachments to Form 2.4. Each attachment must include a header that indicates it is an attachment to Form 2.4 and includes the offset project name and offset project ID code. Multiple attachments may be integrated into a single document as long as each element is clearly identified, as specified below. Check the appropriate boxes in Form 2.4 to indicate that required documentation is attached to the form.

The M&V Plan must include the following:

1. Designation of Inventory Methodology. Describe the inventory design, detailing the year of the inventory and how the sampling plots were selected. If the project is stratified, include the stratification rules, attach a map of vegetation strata, and describe the results of stratification (area by strata) and the tools for application (GIS, aerial photos, etc.).
2. Identification of Sampling Plots. Attach a map depicting the project boundary and the locations of the sampling plots as well as a list of the number, sizes, and coordinates of the plots. The attachment must include recent photos of the plots, and distinct plot identifiers to provide for verification of reported sequestered carbon by an independent verifier or MassDEP.
3. Documentation of Field Measurements. Attach a list that documents all field procedures that will be/were used to take measurements and monument the sampling plots.
4. Documentation of the Modeling Plan. Attach the project modeling plan that was used to update the inventory and describe the approved model. The modeling plan must contain all of the elements specified in Appendix B.3 of the RGGI U.S. Forest Protocol
5. Assessment of Forest Management Practices if Commercial Timber Harvest Activities Have Occurred. If commercial timber harvest activities are anticipated to occur, attach the assessment or certification issued by the American Tree Farm System (ATFS), Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), Sustainable Forestry Institute (SFI), or other similar organizations as approved by MassDEP ensuring that the land within the offset project boundary is being managed in accordance with environmentally sustainable forestry practices. If the certification has not been provided yet, state that the certification will be completed prior to the completion of the first reporting period. If no commercial harvesting activities are anticipated to take place, state as such.
6. Documentation of Quality Assurance Procedures Conducted. Document the quality assurance procedures for the project that will ensure accuracy in data collection, data analysis, and data storage.

Form 2.5 Reversal Risk Rating

Provide the Reversal Risk Rating calculation in a table formatted in a manner consistent with the table below:

Risk Category	Forest Projects not on public lands or without a Qualified Conservation Easement	Forest Project on public lands or with a Qualified Conservation Easement
Financial Risk	5% (Default Value)	1% (Default Value)
Illegal Forest Biomass Removal	0% (Default Value)	0% (Default Value)
Conversion	2% (Default Value)	0% (Default Value)
Over-harvesting	2% (Default Value)	0% (Default Value)
Social	2% (Default Value)	2% (Default Value)
Wildfire	Click here to enter text.% (Must be supported per Appendix D Table D.7) or 4% (Default Value)	Click here to enter text.% (Must be supported per Appendix D Table D.7) or 4% (Default Value)
Disease or Insect Outbreak	3% (Default Value)	3% (Default Value)
Other Catastrophic Events	3% (Default Value)	3% (Default Value)

Include the overall calculation of the Reversal Risk Rating according to the calculation formula displayed in Appendix D:

Reversal Risk Rating = 100% - ((1-Financial Risk %) x (1-Illegal Forest Biomass Removal %) x (1 – Conversion %) x (1-Over-harvesting %) x (1-Social Risk %) x (1-Wildfire %) x (1-Disease/Insect Outbreak %) x (1-Other Catastrophic Events %))

Offset Project Name

Offset Project ID Code

Form 2.1 – Project Description

Attach a detailed narrative of the actions to be taken as part of the offset project. The attached narrative must include a header that indicates it is an attachment to Form 2.1 and includes the offset project name and offset project ID code. If attachments are being submitted as separate electronic documents, please include the form numbers in the file names of the documents.

Check the boxes below to indicate that the following required information is included in the attached detailed project narrative or provided through accompanying attachments:

- ☐ 1. Land Owners. Table identifying the owner(s) of the land within the offset project boundary and copy of deed or title filed with state or local registrar of deeds; statement identifying whether subsurface or surface rights leased to other parties
- ☐ 2. Project Area. Documentation describing whether project is on private or public lands, and whether the project is located on tribal lands.
- ☐ 3. Conservation Easement. Copy of conservation easement (executed or to-be-executed copy) or any other legal encumbrances affecting the Project
- ☐ 4. Assessment Area. Table listing Project Assessment Area(s) by acreage

Offset Project Name

Offset Project ID Code

Form 2.2 – Demonstration of Eligibility

Attach documentation to demonstrate offset project eligibility. Each attachment must include a header that indicates it is an attachment to Form 2.2 and includes the offset project name and offset project ID code. If attachments are being submitted as separate electronic documents, please include the form numbers in the file names of the documents.

Check the boxes below to indicate that the following required documentation is attached:

- ☐ 1. Reforestation Land Eligibility. Select which scenario the Project fits under, and explain how the Project meets the selected scenario.
 - ☐ Less than 10 percent tree canopy cover for a minimum of 10 years
 - ☐ Subject to a Significant Disturbance that has removed at least 20 percent of the land's above-ground live biomass
- ☐ 2. Project Commencement. Identify project commencement date and provide documentation as evidence of action identifying the commencement date.
- ☐ 3. Natural Forest Management. Describe how the project will meet the Natural Forest Management requirements.
 - ☐ Native Species
 - ☐ Species Diversity
 - ☐ Sustainable Management
 - ☐ Structural Elements
- ☐ 4. Legal Requirement. Describe the legal framework of the project (federal, state, local regulations) and explain why this project is not legally required.
- ☐ 5. Broadcast Fertilization. Confirm that the project does not and will not use broadcast fertilization.

Offset Project Name

Offset Project ID Code

Form 2.3 – Baseline Modeling

Attach documentation to demonstrate the baseline modeling methodology and preliminary data. Each attachment must include a header that indicates it is an attachment to Form 2.3 and includes the offset project name and offset project ID code. Multiple attachments may be integrated into a single document, as appropriate, as long as each element is clearly identified, as specified below. If attachments are being submitted as separate electronic documents, please include the form numbers in the file names of the documents.

Check the boxes below to indicate that the following required documentation is attached:

- ☐ 1. Modeling Plan. Identify the approved forest growth model being used for the project. Describe the modeling plan in accordance with Appendix B of the RGGI U.S. Forest Protocol.
- ☐ 2. Qualitative Description. Provide a qualitative characterization of the baseline conditions.

Offset Project Name

Offset Project ID Code

Form 2.4 – Monitoring and Verification Plan

Provide the Monitoring and Verification Plan (M&V Plan) as multiple attachments. Each attachment must include a header that indicates it is an attachment to Form 2.4 and includes the offset project name and offset project ID code. Multiple attachments may be integrated into a single document as long as each element is clearly identified, as specified below. If attachments are being submitted as separate electronic documents, please include the form numbers in the file names of the documents.

Check the boxes below to indicate that the following required components of the M&V Plan are attached:

- ☐ 1. Documentation of Project Inventory. Description of the inventory design and plot selection process. List of stratification rules, map of vegetation strata, and description of vegetation strata, if applicable.
- ☐ 2. Identification of Sampling Plots. Map of sampling plots and list of number, sizes, and locations of all sampling plots used for developing the project inventory, including recent photos and distinct sampling plot identifiers.
- ☐ 3. Documentation of Field Measurements. List all field procedures used to take measurements and monument the sampling plots.
- ☐ 4. Documentation of the Modeling Plan. Description of approved model and the modeling plan used to update the project inventory.
- ☐ 5. Assessment of Forest Management Practices if Commercial Timber Harvest Activities Have Occurred. If applicable, the assessment or certification issued by American Tree Farm System (ATFS), Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), Sustainable Forestry Institute (SFI), or such other similar organizations as approved by MassDEP ensuring that the land within the offset project boundary is being managed in accordance with environmentally sustainable forestry practices.
- ☐ 6. Documentation of Quality Assurance Procedures Conducted. Documentation of quality assurance procedures conducted during the reporting period to ensure accuracy in data collection, data analysis, and data storage.

Offset Project Name

Offset Project ID Code

Form 2.5 – Reversal Risk Rating

Submit Form 2.5 detailing the calculation of the project's Reversal Risk Rating according to Appendix D of the RGGI U.S. Forest Protocol.

Check the boxes below to indicate that the following required components of the M&V Plan are attached:

- ☐ 1. Reversal Risk Rating Table. Provide the table identifying the reversal risk rating for each risk category.
- ☐ 2. Reversal Risk Rating Calculation. Show the Reversal Risk Rating calculation in accordance with the formula in Appendix D.

Part 3. Independent Verification Form

The form in Part 3 of the *Consistency Application* addresses the requirements and documentation related to the independent verifier certification statement and report. Instructions for the form in Part 3 are provided below.

Form 3.1 Independent Verifier Certification Statement and Report

An accredited independent verifier must sign and date the form. Submit the originally signed form as part of the paper hardcopy of the *Consistency Application*. Scan the signed and dated form for submission as part of the electronic version of the *Consistency Application*.

Provide the independent verifier report as an attachment to Form 3.1. The verifier report must include a header that indicates it is an attachment to Form 3.1 and includes the offset project name and offset project ID code.

The verifier report must document the following:

1. The verifier has reviewed the entire *Consistency Application* and evaluated the contents of the application in relation to the applicable requirements of 310 CMR 7.70(10).
2. The verifier has evaluated the adequacy and validity of information supplied by the Project Sponsor to demonstrate that the offset project meets the applicable eligibility requirements of 310 CMR 7.70(10)(c) and 7.70(10)(e).
3. The verifier has evaluated the adequacy and validity of information supplied by the Project Sponsor to demonstrate baseline CO₂-equivalent sequestration, pursuant to the applicable requirements of 310 CMR 7.70(10)(e)(3).
4. The verifier has evaluated the adequacy of the monitoring and verification plan submitted pursuant to 310 CMR 7.70(10)(e)(3).

The verifier report must include the following contents, in the order listed below:

- Cover page with report title and date
- Table of contents
- List of acronyms and abbreviations
- Executive summary
- Description of objective of report
- Identification of the client, including name, address, and other contact information
- Identification of the offset project
- Description of evaluation criteria (applicable regulatory provisions and documentation requirements specified in *Consistency Application*)
- Description of the review and evaluation process, including any site visits and interviews
- Identification of individuals performing the verification work, including the verification team leader and key personnel, and contact information for the team leader

- Description of the materials provided to the verifier by the Project Sponsor
- Evaluation conclusions and findings, including level of assurance provided

Offset Project Name

Offset Project ID Code

Form 3.1 – Independent Verifier Certification Statement and Report

An accredited independent verifier must sign and date Form 3.1. Attach the accredited independent verifier report. The attached verifier report must include a header that indicates it is an attachment to Form 3.1 and includes the offset project name and offset project ID code. If attachments are being submitted as separate electronic documents, please include the form numbers in the file names of the documents. Note that the Project Sponsor must retain the completed original copy of the *Consistency Application* and attachments, including the verifier's original signed documents. MassDEP reserves the right to request the original signed documents at any time.

Name of Accredited Independent Verifier

I certify that the accredited independent verifier identified above reviewed the *Consistency Application*, including all forms and attachments, in its entirety, including a review of the following:

- (a) The adequacy and validity of information supplied by the Project Sponsor to demonstrate that the offset project meets the applicable eligibility requirements of 310 CMR 7.70(10)(c) and 7.70(10)(e)(3), including the required documentation that must be provided in the *Consistency Application*.
- (b) The adequacy and validity of information supplied by the Project Sponsor to demonstrate baseline CO₂-equivalent sequestration, pursuant to the applicable requirements of 310 CMR 7.70(10)(e)(3), including the required documentation that must be provided in the *Consistency Application*.
- (c) The adequacy of the Monitoring and Verification Plan in accordance with the applicable requirements of 310 CMR 7.70(10)(e)(3), including the required documentation that must be provided in the *Consistency Application*.

A verification report is attached that documents the verifier's review of the items listed above and includes evaluation conclusions and findings.

Verifier Representative Signature

Date

Printed name

Title

Notary